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**DIVISIONS**  
**Office of the Secretary**  
(505) 827-0341  
**Administrative Services**  
(505) 827-0369  
**Audit and Compliance**  
(505) 827-0900  
**Motor Transportation**  
(505) 827-0320  
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(505) 827-2294  
**Property Tax**  
(505) 827-0870  
**Revenue Processing**  
(505) 827-0800

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**Contact Kathleen Baca**  
**505-827-0313**

**New Mexico's Tax Fraud Investigations Division  
Identifies Over \$2.8 million in Unpaid Taxes**

SANTA FE — Created a little over two years ago, the Taxation and Revenue Department's Tax Fraud Investigations Division (TFID) has already helped the state recoup over \$2.8 million in unpaid taxes. TFID has referred 22 criminal tax investigations to the New Mexico District Attorney's Offices. The division is currently investigating over 50 additional criminal tax cases.

"It is impossible to quantify the exact amount of money that the New Mexico Taxation and Revenue Department (TRD) has collected as a direct result of Tax Fraud Investigations Division," said Secretary Jan Goodwin. The IRS estimates that for every dollar that it invests in tax enforcement, it is able to collect twenty previously uncollected dollars through increased compliance."

Last year, TFID identified over \$31,000,000 in unreported personal income or gross receipts to New Mexico. As a result, over \$2.8 million dollars in previously unpaid state taxes is being collected.

"TFID is working very hard to protect the people's money," said TFID Director Alvan Romero. "We have over 50 tax cases currently under investigation. We expect to recommend a large number of those cases for prosecution." Romero added that TFID is actively working with other state, local and federal law enforcement agencies in the fight against crime and the effect those cases have on unpaid state taxes.

Of the 22 individuals recommended for tax fraud, six have been convicted, served jail time and are making restitution to the state. Nine more individuals have been indicted by New Mexico Grand Juries or charged with criminal tax charges. They will be scheduled for trial in the near future. The District Attorney's office is reviewing the other seven cases. TFID has a 100 percent conviction rate in adjudicated criminal tax cases that have been referred to the District Attorney's office.

While TFID aggressively refers cases for criminal charges, the division also refers cases it is not pursuing criminally to TRD's Audit and Compliance Division for civil consideration.

"We can not accurately measure the positive effect the Tax Fraud Investigations Division has on increased compliance," Goodwin said. "We know that Taxpayers are more likely to contact us to resolve tax issues as they learn of the work TFID is doing. Every dollar the state loses because of tax fraud costs taxpayers; it robs the public of better schools, roads and vital public services."

According to Romero, several of the division's "tips" have come through TFID's hotline. The hotline has received over 150 calls in the year that it has been operational. TFID's hotline number is 1-866-457-6789.

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